

# Delaware WIC Relocates to La Red Health Center in Georgetown



DPH, La Red Health Center and USDA officials cut the ribbon on moving WIC offices to La Red.

**GEORGETOWN** – To better meet the needs of its clients, and those of Georgetown residents in general, the Delaware Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program has relocated to La Red Health Center located at 21444 Carmean Way in Georgetown. On September 28, 2017 the Division of Public Health (DPH) held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony with La Red Health Center leadership, and representatives from the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office.

WIC moved its offices from the Thurman Adams State Service Center in August after DPH and La Red Health Center acted on their shared vision to offer medical and social services under one roof for WIC clients. Now, on the same days as their

quarterly appointments, WIC clients can see La Red Health Center's primary care, chronic disease care, oral health care, and behavioral health care providers. Clients can also access Medicaid eligibility and enrollment and Screening for Life programs in that building.

"Delaware Health and Social Services strategically integrates services in communities that need them most, and at this new location, pregnant women, new mothers, and young children who are enrolled in WIC can more easily access health care and other social services," said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay.

The move also overcomes transportation challenges many Georgetown residents face since so many services are now available under one roof. La Red Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides affordable care to Delawareans in need. The center also offers interpretation services, which is vitally important in facilitating client care.

"La Red Health Center offers two critical patient enabling services, interpretation and transportation, which help us overcome language and transportation barriers to care. We have interpreters and also utilize a language line to assist patients," said Brian Olson, Chief Executive Officer for La Red Health Center. When available, we provide transportation for patients without insurance to their appointments at La Red Health Center or to the medical specialists we have referred them to for further follow-up.

This location is far more convenient than the Adams State Service Center for our clients. It is on the bus route, and the majority of our patients' medical needs and social services can be handled under one roof. WIC clients no longer have to drive, catch a bus, or find a ride to several locations for services – saving everyone time and money. Furthermore, La Red Health Center is within walking distance to WIC vendors such as Wal-Mart and Redner's."

"I am pleased that WIC will be conveniently located to so many other services available at the College Park location," stated State Representative Ruth Briggs King (R-Georgetown). "Families realize the benefit from centralized services, and Georgetown, and in particular this location, have become a hub of activity for quality health care, dental care, and related services."

Rep. Briggs King also said, "Working families living at or below the poverty line need foods that promote growth and good health, and WIC provides healthy choices for families. Unfortunately, the need for assistance has grown in Sussex County. But, La Red and the Division of Public Health continue to be there for Sussex families, by anticipating and responding to the needs in our community."

The WIC program serves women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum, and children and infants less than 5 years old by providing supplemental nutritious foods and supplemental formula at no cost to enrolled clients, who shop at grocery stores authorized to accept the program. WIC also provides [breastfeeding support](#), nutrition education, and referrals to healthcare, and social services agencies. Through these services, WIC strives to promote breastfeeding as the premier source of infant nutrition, and achieve fewer premature births, higher birth weights, lower infant mortality, and improved overall health.

"We praise Delaware's administration of the WIC program, which serves nearly 19,000 women, infants, and children statewide. WIC food packages along with the nutrition education that addresses the needs of our participants are the chief means by which WIC positively affects the dietary quality and habits of participants. Research consistently shows us that individuals who participate in WIC not only consume more whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, but also that their diets have a higher Healthy Eating Index when compared to non-participants," said Patricia Dombroski, Regional

Administrator, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office.

For more information about WIC, including eligibility requirements, visit

<http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chca/dphwichominf01.html> or call 302-424-7220 (Kent and Sussex counties) and 302-283-7540 (New Castle County).

*A person who is deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind or speech-disabled can call the DPH phone number above by using TTY services. Dial 7-1-1 or 800-232-5460 to type your conversation to a relay operator, who reads your conversation to a hearing person at DPH. The relay operator types the hearing person's spoken words back to the TTY user. To learn more about TTY availability in Delaware, visit <http://delawarerelay.com>.*

*Delaware Health and Social Services is committed to improving the quality of the lives of Delaware's citizens by promoting health and well-being, fostering self-sufficiency, and protecting vulnerable populations. DPH, a division of DHSS, urges Delawareans to make healthier choices with the 5-2-1 Almost None campaign: eat 5 or more fruits and vegetables each day, have no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time each day (includes TV, computer, gaming), get 1 or more hours of physical activity each day, and drink almost no sugary beverages.*